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Economist Will Speak at UNH on Myths and Challenges of Utility Deregulation

By [Janet Lathrop](#)
UNH News Bureau

May 6, 2002

DURHAM, N.H. -- Douglas N. Jones, professor of regulatory economics at the School of Public Policy and Management, The Ohio State University, Columbus, will speak at the Whittemore School of Business and Economics Friday, May 10, from 2:10 to 3:30 p.m. in Room 318, McConnell Hall, at the University of New Hampshire.

Jones, who is a 1955 graduate of UNH, will speak on "Ten Current Myths About Ten Current Challenges in Utility Deregulation." As Jones will discuss, there are many challenges facing state public utility commissions (PUC) today. For example, they must devise ways to regulate utilities that have one foot in the competitive market place but that remain partly monopolistic, as well.

"Merely identifying the challenges that regulators now face in implementing restructuring of the electric, telecommunications and natural gas industries is reasonably straightforward," the economist notes.

"Perhaps somewhat more useful is to say something candidly about the nature of these challenges, just how difficult they are, and what may be involved in trying to meet them."

Jones was the first director of the National Regulatory Research Institute at Ohio State from 1978 to 1998, and now serves as the institute's director emeritus. He has served as chief economist and research director of the President's Committee for Developing Alaska, and as regional economist for the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. His speech is one of a series of economics seminars organized at the Whittemore School by Karen Conway, associate professor of economics.

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